



MONTANA CAREER RESOURCE NETWORK CONNECTIONS

January 2009

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MCRN's Latest Release - Career Heroes



MCRN has released a new career publication aimed at 3rd and 4th grade students. With fun career awareness activities on every page, Career Heroes uses the concept of trading card games to introduce students to the skills and tools used in today's occupations.

Workbook writer and illustrator Robert C. Marvin explains, "In trading card games, each character has its own special powers and abilities that are listed on the card. We thought it

would be fun to give different types of workers their own trading cards and to list their 'Feats Performed,' 'Tools Mastered,' and 'Special Training.' The concept is to teach kids about the job requirements and education needed for different career fields in a way that's fun and engaging."

The workbook divides careers into six types based on the Holland Codes: Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional. For each type, 6 occupations are described, each of which is accompanied by its own activity. The activities not only enhance career awareness, but also require students to exercise their reading, writing, math, and art skills.

The second half of the workbook is comprised of additional activities designed to reinforce the lessons of the first half, and to get students thinking about their own career preferences. The final exercise allows kids to create their own cards featuring themselves as career heroes.

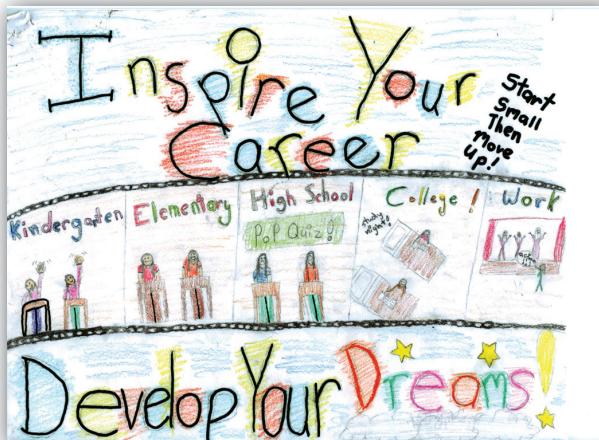
MCRN would like to thank the following teachers/counselors for reviewing and testing the publication: Tedi Bishop, Norma Bixby, Jean Braun, Ty Cotton, Leslie Etapa, Carol Idland, Sheri Johnson, Mary Machart, and Kristy Savaria.

The Career Heroes workbook is available for free download at www.ourfactsyourfuture.org. For printed copies, please contact Donetta Clark or Shaunda Hildebrand at (800) 541-3904 or by e-mail at mcrn@mt.gov.

MCRN Poetry and Poster Contest Winners

MCRN recently held a Poetry and Poster Contest for career development. “Inspire Your Career, Develop Your Dreams” was the theme. Our winning entries (shown below) have been submitted to the National Career Development contest. The national results will be posted on the NCDA website www.ncda.org by April 15, 2009. The winning entries will also be on display at the Annual Global Conference to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, June 30-July 3, 2009. Congratulations to our first place winners.

Intermediate Grades 3-5 Emily Skyberg, Fort Peck



Senior Grades 9-12 Alexandra Hildebrand, Helena

Expressed Through Careers

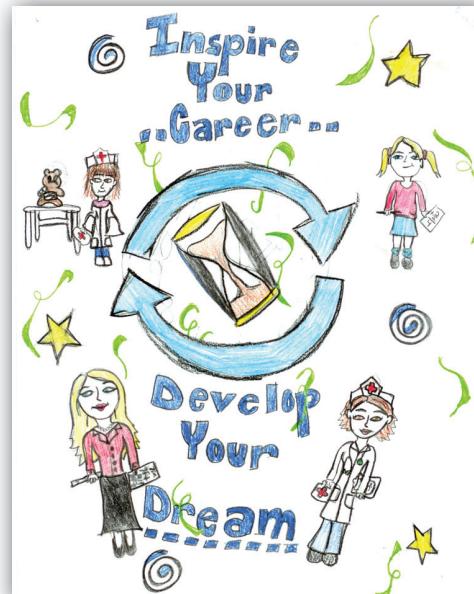
Through love we express caring,
Through speaking we express ourselves,
Through laughing we express joy.

With careers we express our love to do something,
In expressing love we show that we care
For the people who receive what we make.

With that career we do what we love,
Because we love to do it,
Through career we show the accomplishment of a job well done.

Whether we laugh while doing our job,
Or whether we love with all our might,
Our career is the expression of us.

Middle Grades 6-8 Amanda Buckles, Wolf Point



Senior Grades 9-12 Alexandra Hildebrand, Helena



MCRN Upcoming Projects

With the release of What to Pack for Middle School students and Career Heroes for 3rd and 4th grade students, MCRN has met our goal of providing career resources for all Montanans! However, continuous improvement is one of our core values, which means setting new goals.

Our latest projects will build on the resources already available. Our projects for 2009 include creating a

poster with the theme of “Education Pays,” expanding and improving the functionality of the MCIS Course Planner, and creating trading cards and a teacher’s guide for Career Heroes.

If you identify a career resource need that is not currently being met, please contact Shaunda Hildebrand or Donetta Clark so we can ensure that you and your students can get the resources you need.

Real Game Series Certified Trainers

In past years, MCRN has held several Real Game Series Train-The-Trainer Sessions, in which teachers and others have trained to be facilitator trainers for The Real Game (7/8 grade) and The Be Real Game (9/10 grade). The following individuals have successfully completed Train-the-Trainer sessions in specific versions of the Real Game Series. This list is provided for your information only and does not constitute a recommendation for a particular trainer. There may be other individuals in your area that are qualified to provide facilitator training. Listed with each trainer are their Real Game Program specializations. Please check back as more trainers are added constantly.

Name	School/Agency/Organization	Email	Type of Game
Judith Boyd	Lame Deer Public School	jboyd@nemontel.net	Real Game
Jason Carr	Lame Deer Public School	jasoncarr@lamedeer.k12.mt.us	Real Game
Diane Stinger	Simms H S	dstinger@srvs.k12.mt.us	Real Game
Lis Schmidt	Vaughn/Simms	schmidtlis@hotmail.com	Real Game
Chau Young	Evergreen Junior High	cshreiner@evergreen.k12.mt.us	Real Game
Kenny Johnson	Pryor School	kj59102@hotmail.com	Real Game
Gari King	Winnette School	king@midrivers.com	Real Game
Rebecca Burg	Dixon Elementary	burgrb16@yahoo.com	Real Game
Chris Eichert	Dixon Elementary	ceichert@blackfoot.net	Real Game
Josh Sloan	Student Assistance Foundation	jsloan@safmt.org	Real Game
Shauna Savage	Student Assistance Foundation	ssavage@mtech.edu	Real Game
Emily Flemming	Student Assistance Foundation	eflemming@safmt.org	Real Game
Cathy Yetter	Job's for Montana Graduates	cyetter@mt.gov	Real Game
Drea Brown	Job's for Montana Graduates	dbrown@mt.gov	Real Game
Jim Lambert	Job's for Montana Graduates	jlambert@mt.gov	Real Game
Lucille Thomason	Job's for Montana Graduates	lthomason@mt.gov	Real Game
Todd Curry	Sun River Valley School Dist	tcurrey@srvs.k12.mt.us	Real Game
Pamela Geboe	Hays Lodge Pole School	pgeboe@hlschoolaccess.net	Real Game
Carletta Benson	Hays Lodge Pole School	carlettab@dodson.k12.mt.us	Real Game
Allen Pule	St Ignatius	apule@stignatiusschools.org	Real Game
Kamiah Dumontier	Arlee, St Ignatius, Two Eagle and Polson	Kamiah_DuMontier@skc.edu	Real Game
Colleena Brown	Busby, Lame Deer Colstrip and St Labre.	jschell@montana.edu	Real Game
Doris Loeser	White Sulpher Springs High School	dloeser@whitesulphur.k12.mt.us	Real Game
Cindy Brady	Lincoln School	cbrady@lincoln.k12.mt.us	Real Game
Dana Richards	Gear UP	drichards@montana.edu	Real Game
Anna Mize	Arlee Elementary	amize@arlee.k12.mt.us	Be Real Game
Barb Mosher	Trout Creek School	mo59873@gmail.com	Be Real Game
Teddi Bishop	Dutton/Brady School	two_tabs_6@yahoo.com	Be Real Game
Mary Howard	Student Assistance Foundation	mhoward@safmt.org	Be Real Game
Kalie Porter	Student Assistance Foundation	kporter@safmt.org	Be Real Game
Janice Singer	Hardin High School	janice.singer@hardin.k12.mt.us	Be Real Game
Janie Delp	Hardin High School	prayerwarriorj@yahoo.com	Be Real Game
Jamie Crawford	Heart Butte School	jamiecrawford71@hotmail.com	Be Real Game
Heidi Owens	Heart Butte School	owensheidi@gmail.com	Be Real Game
Justine Jam	Gear Up	jjam@mt.gov	Be Real Game
Sara Berg	Gear Up	saraberg@montana.edu	Be Real Game
Donetta Clark	Montana Career Resource Network	doclark@mt.gov	Both
Shaunda Hildebrand	Montana Career Resource Network	shildebrand@mt.gov	Both

If you would like to learn more about Real Game and Real Game training contact Shaunda Hildebrand or Donetta Clark at 1-800-541-3904



WIA Incentive Grant and MCRN

Through a cooperative effort between Adult Basic Education (ABE - OPI), the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE), and the Department of Labor and Industry, MCRN is involved in the WIA Incentive Grant. The aim of this grant to develop the infrastructure for services designed to enable unemployed/underemployed adults to gain the skills necessary to attain self-sufficiency and move up the economic ladder. MCRN will provide career resources and access to MCIS for the unemployed/underemployed adults gaining skills to move up the economic ladder.

The key components of the grant plan are:

- Development of a three step process that will help adult learners develop their own plans for success (workforce/postsecondary)
- Use MCIS as the foundation for developing the plan
- Multiple points of entry (ABE, postsecondary, job service)
- A referral process will be developed to ensure that any receiving agency will be equipped to assist adults in creating an educational or training plan or an employment search plan.
- Receiving agencies will provide ongoing support for goal attainment.

The outcomes of the grant will be:

- Content Standards for Adult Education
- Updated university system CIP (Classification of Instructional Programs) codes
- Training for front-line staff to better meet the needs of the adult learner
- Research completed on high-skill, high-demand jobs and high-wage labor force needs based on region
- Publications and resource development
- Expanded GED Online instruction
- Expanded MCIS Course Planner functionality



MCIS Skills Inventory & Portfolio Set-up Training Available On-Line

Through the MCRN website, free on-line training is available for setting up a portfolio in MCIS, and for using the Skills Inventory module. Although these lessons are targeted toward employment specialists working with job seekers, the information translates easily for any use of MCIS.

Our online Portfolio Set-up training not only includes information on how to set up a new portfolio, but also how to utilize the MCIS Administrative Tools for managing portfolios. This portfolio training is only 7 ½ minutes long, and covers everything you'll need to know to begin setting up and managing portfolios.

The Skills Inventory training is divided into three lessons. Lesson One introduces the Skills Inventory module and shows you how to use it. Lesson Two illustrates how the Skills Inventory can help a job seeker, while Lesson Three shows how it helps an employer. Each lesson runs between 12 and 21 minutes. These lessons are a quick and easy way to familiarize yourself with the Skills Inventory in MCIS.

To access the lessons, visit the MCRN website at www.careers.mt.gov, then click on the "Teachers/Counselors" button. The training is the second item in the left column titled "Transferable Skills Power Tool". If you have any questions or need assistance please contact Annette Miller at 1-800-541-3904 or anmiller@mt.gov.



COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY 2009

Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is an essential — though not particularly enjoyable — step in applying for financial aid.

And while it might be tempting for parents to avoid the hassle of the financial aid process by responding to advertisements from companies who offer to complete the FAFSA on a family's behalf for a fee, it's an unnecessary measure thanks to Montana College Goal Sunday, according to nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF).

The operative word in FAFSA is free. Through Montana College Goal Sunday, SAF, financial aid professionals and other volunteers from across the state ensure that students and families have the support they need to complete the FAFSA so they can save their money for paying for their postsecondary education.

College Goal Sunday is a free event held annually at 18 locations across the state — in 2009, the event will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 18 and/or Sunday, Feb. 22. Students and families can check the dates and times of College Goal Sunday by visiting www.CollegeGoalMT.org.

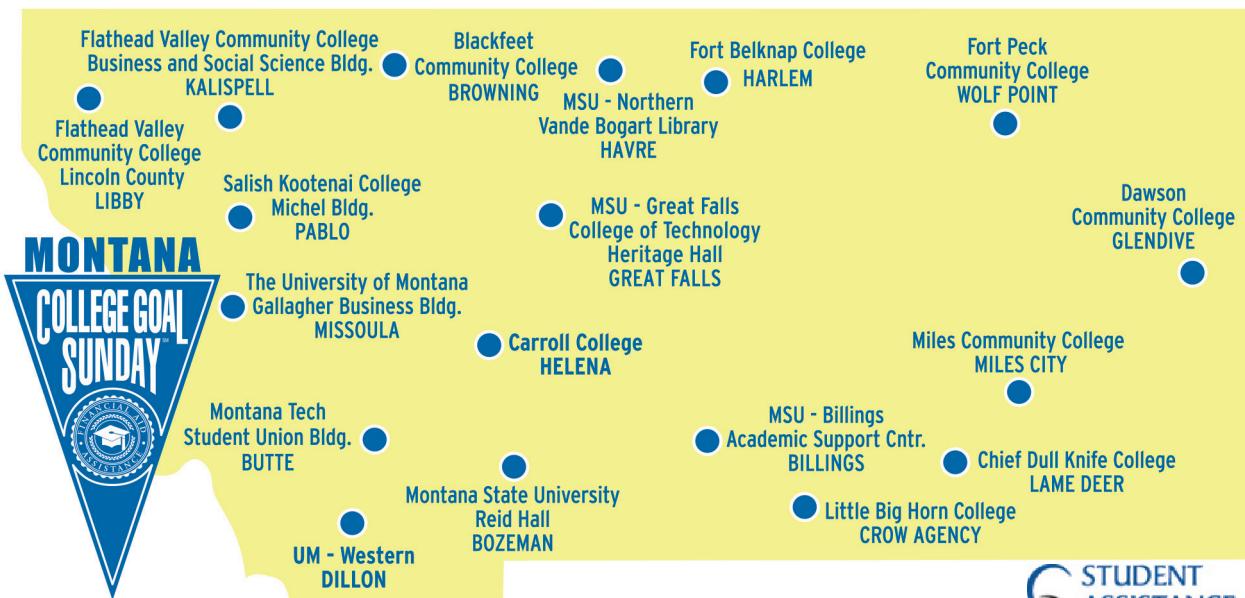
No reservations are required to attend Montana College Goal Sunday. Drop by any of the following locations between the designated hours of operation to receive one-on-one help completing the FAFSA. College Goal Sunday sites are as follows: Montana State University-Billings, Montana State University in Bozeman, Blackfeet Community College in Browning, Montana Tech of

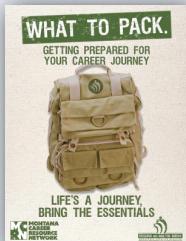
UM in Butte, Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency, Dawson Community College in Glendive, The University of Montana-Western in Dillon, MSU-Great Falls College of Technology in Great Falls, Fort Belknap College in Harlem, MSU-Northern in Havre, UM-Helena College of Technology in Helena, Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, Chief Dull Knife College in Lame Deer, Flathead Valley Community College in Libby, Miles Community College in Miles City, The University of Montana in Missoula, Salish Kootenai College in Pablo and Fort Peck Community College in Wolf Point.

In addition to receiving one-on-one assistance to complete the FAFSA on College Goal Sunday, event participants can enter to win a \$500 scholarship to be used at the school of their choice. At least one scholarship will be randomly awarded at each site.

Since SAF established this program in Montana five years ago, response from the public has continued to grow. Last year, College Goal Sunday sites served 1,679 students and parents. This year, SAF hopes to help even more Montana families complete this important step on the road to postsecondary education.

College Goal Sunday is a national program that was originally created by the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association with funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc. and with supplemental support from Lumina Foundation for Education. Lumina Foundation provided grant funding to SAF to implement the program in Montana.





Time To Pack: Preparing for High School

It's that time of year again, when 8th graders are beginning to sweat about choosing high school courses. This year, take the worry out of the process by using our middle school career preparation guide: What To Pack.

What To Pack is a great resource for finding out about high school graduation requirements, Montana University System admission requirements, and career planning. With activities and worksheets to help students identify their interests, set goals, and make specific course plans for high school, What To Pack is the career publication to pack this year.

Introducing MCRN Program Assistant, Donetta Clark

Due to the increase in demand for MCRN Publications and MCIS usage, a position has been created at the Montana Career Resource Network. The newest member of our team is MCRN Program Assistant Donetta Clark. In this position, Donetta will manage the MCIS database, perform tech support for MCIS, organize conferences and training for The Real Game, and work with publications guru Rob Marvin on updating existing publications, creating new ones, and tracking their usage.

Before accepting the position of MCRN Program Assistant, Donetta already had extensive experience with MCRN and MCIS through her work as the Administrative Assistant for the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.

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